

SYSTEM, METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
PROVIDING MULTIPLE ACCESS MODES IN A
DATA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system, method and apparatus for providing multiple access modes in a data communications network includes a network access device having a plurality of input ports, a plurality of output ports, and a switching fabric for routing data received on the plurality of input ports to at least one of the plurality of output ports. Control logic within the network access device is adapted to determine whether a user device coupled to one of the plurality of input ports supports a user authentication protocol used by a host network. If the user authentication protocol is not supported, then the input port to which the network access device is coupled is placed in a semi-authorized access state that limits access to a pre-configured network accessible via the host network.